REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 6 and 7 are amended. Claims 2, 3, 6 and 7 are amended only to correct minor informalities and do not affect their patentability. No new matter is added.

I. Objections to the Claims

Claim 1 is objected to for use of the term "its". As claim 1 is amended, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. As claim 1 is amended in reply to the rejection, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2 and 4-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by UK Patent Publication GB 2,165,612 (GB '612). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants assert that GB '612 does not disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims, as amended. For example, GB '612 does not disclose a method of manufacturing a wire segment from a metallic wire having a substantially rectangular cross-section, a front surface and a rear surface, the method comprising *inter alia* forming a widened end portion at one end of the wire and a swollen portion on the rear surface of the wire at a chin portion of the widened end portion by upsetting the wire in a longitudinal direction, and bending the wire at the widened end portion toward the front surface of the wire while tightly holding the widened end portion and the swollen portion in a die.

GB '612 discloses a method of making a nail for footwear. The nail 2 can be produced from wire, using a die 9 such as that shown in Fig. 3 of GB '612. The die 9 has two pieces, each having a part 10 with semi-cylindrical surfaces, capable of gripping a steel wire from which the nail is to be made, and a part 11 with identical flat rectangular faces 11a and

11b (page 1, lines 119-126). When the wire is gripped in the die, the opposing parts 10 form the cylindrical part 3 of the nail and the opposing parts 11a and 11b form the part 4 having a square cross-section (page 1, lines 127-130) making up the shank 2. A punch deforms a projecting part 12 of the wire to make the head 1 of the nail and a flared portion 13 provides for the formation of the frustoconical portion 6 between the head portion and the cylindrical part. An additional die, then cuts the wire at the end that forms the free end of the part 4 in order to make the pyramidal point 5.

Thus, GB '612 does not disclose forming a widened end portion at one end of the wire (either the head or the point of the nail) and a swollen portion on the rear surface of the wire at a chin portion of the widened end portion. As the nail is straight, there is no such chin portion at the swollen portion on the rear surface of the wire. Furthermore, although the Office Action alleges that the widened end portion corresponds to the part 4 of the nail, one skilled in the art readily knows, and the figures show, that a nail does not have a widened end portion in the shank. Rather, to perform its function, nails have a straight section where the Office Action alleges a swollen portion to exist. Additionally, Applicants do not understand how a widened end portion can correspond to the middle of a nail.

Additionally, GB '612 does not disclose bending the wire at the widened end portion toward the front surface of the wire while tightly holding the widened end portion and the swollen portion in a die. The Office Action alleges that the die as recited in the claims corresponds to the soles of shoes shown in Fig. 2 of GB '612. Applicants submit that the soles of shoes do not correspond to a die for bending wire. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 4-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2 and 9 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,742,190 to Apple. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants assert that Apple does not disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims as amended. Rather, Apple discloses single turn bar wound armatures and insertion of the wires into the winding.

The Office Action alleges that Fig. 3 of Apple shows a wire segment having a widened end portion 21 at one end of a wire and a swollen portion 20 on a rear surface of the wire at a bending portion by upsetting the wire in a longitudinal direction. However, Fig. 3 of Apple merely shows a cross-sectional view of parallel segments of the winding wire shown in Fig. 2. One of the parallel segments shown in Fig. 3 has a round cross-section 21 and the other parallel segment has a tapered cross-section 20. The wire is formed by cutting a length of round wire of standard gage and folding it back upon itself as at 18 to form a hairpin turn providing two round conductor bars that are parallel to each other (page 2, lines 13-19). One of the two bars is then struck in a die to flatten the one of the bars and leave the other bar round (page 2, lines 21-30).

Thus, Apple does not disclose a wire having a widened end portion and a swollen portion at the rear surface of the wire at a chin portion of the widened end portion. As each of the parallel segments have a consistent shape throughout, Apple cannot disclose a swollen portion on the rear surface of the wire at a chin portion of the widened end portion as recited in the amended claims.

Additionally, Apple does not disclose upsetting the wire in a longitudinal direction but merely discloses bending the wire at the turn portion 18 and running one of the parallel segments through a die to form a taper. Furthermore, the segments shown in Apple do not have a bend in the wire at the widened end portion toward a front surface of the wire. Rather, the bend is formed at a time while each of the parallel segments has a round shape and later one of the segments is tapered in a die. Thus, there is no bend at a widened portion in any of the segments of Apple.

Regarding claim 2, the Office Action alleges that the heading of an end of the widened end portion toward the bending portion is met by Apple by the act of moving the wire through a die or rollers. However, such is not the act of "heading" as known by those skilled in the art and clearly defined at page 9, lines 16-18. Thus, Apple does not disclose the additional features of claim 2. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

IV. Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over GB '612 or Apple. Applicants assert that claim 3 is allowable for its dependency on claim 1 for the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features recited therein. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-9 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

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